IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 6, please amend lines 3-10 so as to read as follows:

"Further, in the invention it is preferable that:

at least three or more kinds of image information are sequentially inputted into the input means;

the output means sequentially replaces an image stored in the storing means with an image outputted from the comparing means after each input of one of the kinds of images and prior to the next sequential input of another of the kinds of images; and

the recognizing means recognizes a portion common to an image newly inputted through the input means and the image stored in the storing means by comparing the images."

Please amend page 8, line 12 to page 9, line 1, so as to read as follows:

"Still further, in the invention it is preferable that the comparing means includes extracting means for causing the output means to output only a pixel of which the difference in pixel values calculated by the calculating means is equal to or less than the threshold value, and eliminating means for causing, when the difference in pixel values calculated by the calculating means is equal to or less than the threshold value, the output means to output the inputted image and the stored image as two images, while preventing a pixel of which the difference in pixel values is equal to or less than the threshold value, from being outputted thereinto.

The apparatus further comprises selecting means for selecting one of the extracting means and the eliminating means, which are included in the comparing means, to be put into operation.